

To the FCC:

It is my understanding that regulations limiting the number of broadcast media outlets owned by a single corporation and limits on broadcast media ownership by newspapers will be removed. I believe the regulations should NOT be relaxed or removed. I remember when no individual or organization could own more than one station in a market. In our town, there were about a dozen station owners, and they served the public very well. Today just two organizations own all the broadcast properties.

I also remember when banks were locally owned. The result of bank consolidation was the loss of many important white color jobs in our small city. One of those jobs was my wife's.

I see a trend in the relaxation of these regulations toward government favoring and promoting big business at the expense of small business. Big business does not necessarily mean better business. The Enron scandal is an example of that.

Our nation learned painful lessons in the 19th century about the need for federal antitrust regulation, that our current leaders apparently never learned in their history classes. Thank God for Teddy Roosevelt and the other reformers who fought a remarkable political war to prevent our nation from being dominated by big business, big labor, and big government.

I see the relaxation of ownership rules for broadcast properties reaping great rewards for corporate executives and stockbrokers while the rest of the nation loses local business leadership, independent decision making, small business opportunities, and a more personal and humane approach to business operations. I spoke to a radio station disc jockey recently at an on-site promotion. I told him I knew the man he works for from childhood. He spoke about how lucky he was to be working for a family owned business in the broadcast industry.

Thank you for giving me a chance to share my opinion. Please do the right thing.

Dan Engelbrecht